



## MINERAL CREEK TRAIL

TIME:

6 hours R.T

DIFFICULTY:

Easy

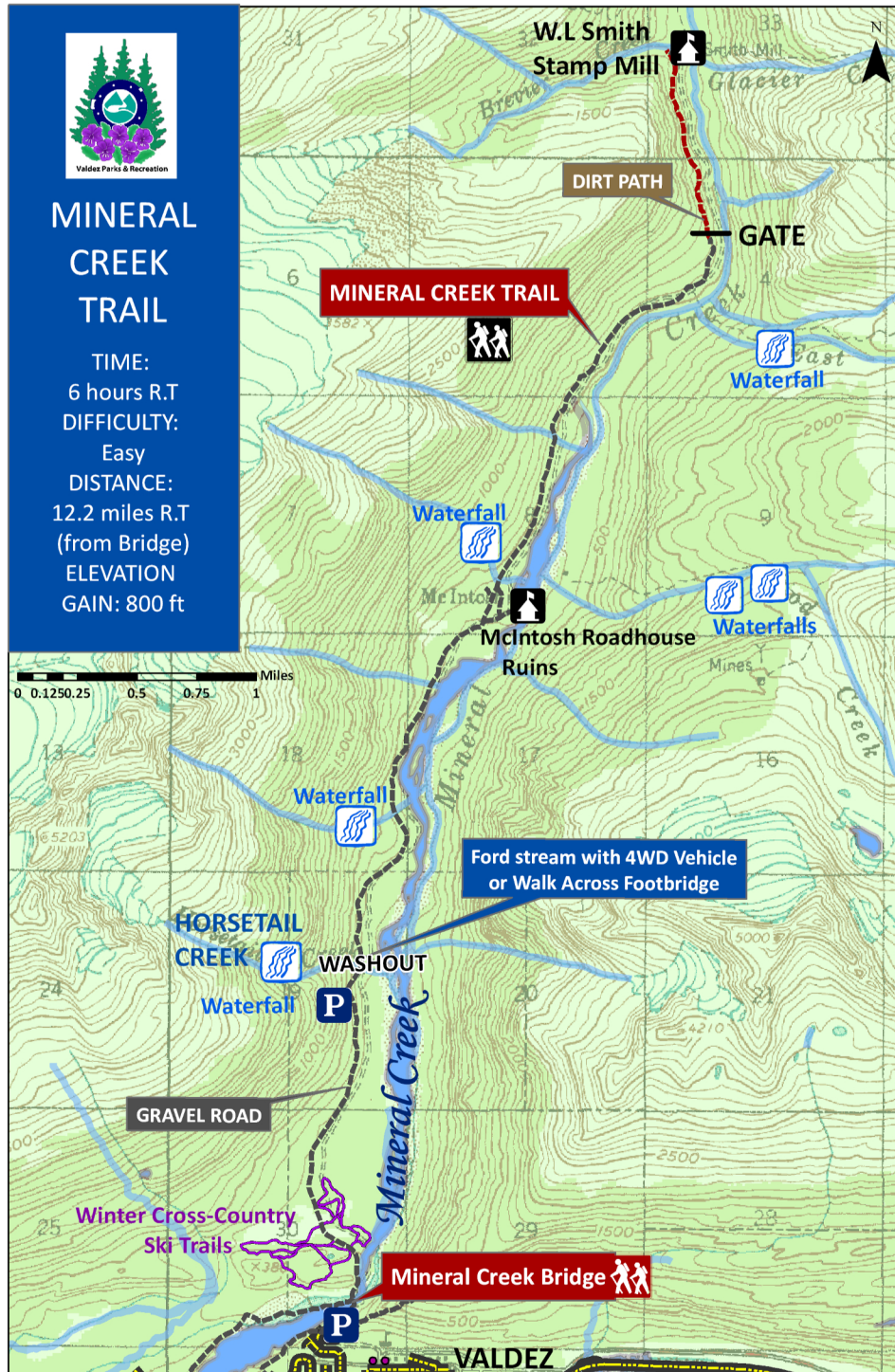
DISTANCE:

12.2 miles R.T

(from Bridge)

ELEVATION

GAIN: 800 ft



### Description:

Mineral Creek Valley is one of the most scenic valleys in all of Valdez. A rough gravel road begins at the upper end of Mineral Creek Drive and runs for a distance of approximately 5.5 miles before ending at a gate, after which the trail becomes a dirt footpath. With mountains rising to over 5,000 feet and cascading waterfalls on each side, the scenic vistas are spectacular even on a cloudy day. It is a beautiful walk or bicycle - just be aware that motorized traffic is allowed and many locals enjoy driving their 4-wheelers down the gravel road portion of the trail. It is

also possible to ford the washout 1.5 miles up the road at Horsetail Creek with a 4WD vehicle but rockslides further along the trail are impassible. A parking area before the Horsetail Creek waterfalls makes this a good place to stop driving and continue on foot. Two miles past Horsetail Creek, a short trail to the right leads down to the river where a small tram was used years ago to service the McIntosh Roadhouse (circa 1912), which was located on the other side of Mineral Creek. The main trail continues up the valley 2.7 miles to the W.L. Smith Stamp Mill. This mill was built in 1913 and used in conjunction with the Mountain King Mine, which was located about 3,000 feet above sea level on the east side of Mineral Creek.

### Directions:

The "trail" part of the Mineral Creek Trail begins 5.5 miles from the Mineral Creek Bridge where a gate marks the end of the gravel road and the beginning of a dirt path. From the gate, the trail leads up the valley for approximately eight tenths of a mile before reaching the W.L. Smith Stamp Mill. Care should be used along portions of this trail as the foot path is narrow at times. As the canyon opens up, evidence of recent gold mining activities can be seen along the banks of the river. Various old trails lead up both sides of the valley to the once active mines.

### Distance & Time:

**DISTANCE:** 12.2 miles round trip (from Mineral Creek Bridge)

**TIME:** 6 hours round trip (on foot)

**DIFFICULTY:** Moderate; If driving, 4-wheelers recommended after Horsetail Creek. No RV's or trailers. There are No Turn Around Points.

